Modernisation Project of Ship Repair of Rajabagan Dock Yard

*213. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of modernisation project of ship repair facilities of Rajabagan Dock Yard, sanctioned in December, 1992;

(b) the target date of completion and slippage, if any;

(c) the original and revised project cost; and

(d) the reasons for the tardy progress so far?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The project for the modernisation of the Rajabagan Dockyard of CIWTC is being implemented in phases under the Indo- Dutch Cooperation Programme. A Joint Indo-Dutch Project Management Team (PMT) was constituted in August, 1994 to advise, control, monitor and supervise the activities of the Project. Activities identified for Phase-I are progressing as per schedule. The final draft of Grant Agreement is under process. With the finalisation of the Grant Agreement, site activities are expected to be commenced in November, 1996.

(b) The schedule of completion of the scheme was originally September, 1995. However, as per the revised schedule, the first phase is to be completed by April, 1998.

(c) While the original cost estimate for the project was Rs. 66.09 crores for ship- building and shiprepairing activities, the revised cost estimate is Rs. 71.34 crores for shiprepairing activities only.

(d) The Project was reappraised by the Dutch Government and their final report was available only in November, 1993. Thereafter, necessary follow-up action such as preparation of a Bilateral Assistance Project Document, its approval, formation of Indo-Dutch Project Management Team, etc. was taken. Activities have commenced from August, 1994 and efforts are on to complete the first phase by the revised scheduled time i.e. April, 1998.

Sick Textile Mills

*214. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick textile mills both spinning and composite units in the country;

(b) the production capacity affected due to closed mills;

(c) the number of workers affected by closed mills;

(d) the steps taken to revive the sick textile mills;

(e) whether there is a proposal to arrange funds from international monetary agencies for financing the modernisation of textile mills in private sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As per information furnished by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), there were 296 mills registered with BIFR as on 31.5.96.

(b) As on 31.5.96, 4.90 million spindles, 7261 rotors and 49733 looms were reported to be affected by the closure of mills.

(c) Number of workers affected was 233231.

(d) Government has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Bomb Hoax in Shatabdi Express

*215. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rumour of placing powerful bomb in Shatabdi Express running between Lucknow and Delhi made the passengers to get down at Kanpur Railway Station on the 25th June, 1996;

(b) whether such rumours can create chaos and provide full chance of looting of passengers besides delaying the running of a train;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to avoid chances of such rumour in trains; and

(d) if so, details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (d) A telephonic call was received on 26.6.1996, at about 1640 hours, at the Kanpur Station Central Enquiry that a bomb had been placed in the Shatabdi Express coming from Lucknow. The Station Superintendent, Kanpur passed on the information to the Government Railway Police authorities. On arrival of the train at the Railway Station, Kanpur at 1708 hours, the passengers were detrained. The Government Railway Police personnel and the Bomb Disposal Squad of Kanpur police checked the train in the presence of the City Magistrate. No bomb was found. After getting clearance from the State/Civil authorities, the train started from Kanpur at 1925 hours.

Such bomb hoax calls do create panic amongst the passengers and cause them inconvenience, besides delaying the running of trains. However, in the interest of passenger safety, such hoax calls cannot be ignored without proper verification.

State Government are alerted from time to time to identify rumour-mongers and take appropriate action against them; State Governments also take steps to create awareness in public against spreading rumours.

Celebration of Birth Centenary of Shri V. K. Krishna Menon

*216. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to celebrate the birth centenary of late Shri V. K. Krishan Menon. one of the principal architects of the doctrine of non-alignment; and

(b) whether the establishment of an International Centre of Research and Documentation on Problems and Issues concerning aspects on non-alignment in the name of Shri Krishna Menon would be considered as part of such centenary celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has either been received or is under consideration of the National Committee set up for celebration on birth centenary of late Shri V. K. Krishna Menon.

Formation of Regulatory Body for Road Building System

*217. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the automobile industry for the formation of an effective and independent regulatory agency to help promote a safer, cleaner and efficient road-building system;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on such proposal; and

(c) whether Government have received certain number of bids for building six- lane fenced Super National Highways, if so, the details including the amount of investment involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Highways Authority of India invited global proposals for feasibility studies for the identified sections of the Super National Highways. Twenty-two parties including 11 number of foreign firms applied for it. It is too early to indicate the amount of investment involved.

Plan for Improvement in Droughts in Hooghly

*218. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: (a) the present plan for improvement in draughts in Hooghly Estuary;

(b) the present status of the recessional dredging project over Jiggarkhali Flat; and

(c) the action taken so far against the Dutch contractor, engaged for the above job?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The plan for the improvement in draughts in